

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of May 4, 2004 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 7-11 have been withdrawn as the result of the earlier restriction requirement. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,462,72). Applicants traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is allowable in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a switching transistor for switching a signal of the data line according to a signal of the scan line, the switching transistor including a channel region made of polycrystalline silicon having a longitudinal grain, wherein the longitudinal grain is substantially parallel to a current flow direction in the channel region...” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and claims 2-3, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

In the Office Action on page 2, the Examiner states, “Kimura does not teach the polycrystalline silicon of the channel region of the switching transistor (121) or the driving transistor (122) having a longitudinal grain and the longitudinal grain being substantially parallel to a current flow direction of the channel region.” In order to cure the deficiencies of Kimura et al., the Examiner appears to take an Official Notice, stating that “However, it is widely known in the art that the current flows along the channel region of a transistor and since transistor are fabricated to optimize the current flow along the channel region.”

Applicants respectfully submit that to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the prior art references when combined must at least teach or suggest all the claim elements. As stated by the Examiner, Kimura et al. fails to teach the aforementioned element in claim 1. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner’s assertion,

“the current flows along the channel region of a transistor and since transistor are fabricated to optimize the current flow along the channel region,” fails to teach or suggest the aforementioned element in claim 1, “a channel region made of polycrystalline silicon having a longitudinal grain, wherein the longitudinal grain is substantially parallel to a current flow direction in the channel region.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s Official Notice and request to provide documentary evidence that shows the aforementioned element in claim 1 with proper motivation to combine with Kimura et al.

Claim 4 is allowable in that claim 4 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “wherein each of the switching transistor, the driving transistor and the transistors in the gate drive IC and the data drive IC includes a channel region made of polycrystalline silicon having a longitudinal grain, and the longitudinal grain is substantially parallel to a current flow direction in the channel region.” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 and claims 5-6, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 12 is allowable in that claim 12 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a driving transistor for applying a power supply of the power line to the electroluminescence device according to a signal applied through the switching transistor, the driving transistor including a channel region made of polycrystalline silicon having a longitudinal grain, wherein the longitudinal grain is substantially parallel to a current flow direction in the channel region.” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12 and claims 13-14, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: July 28, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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